

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

**Chief John R. Batiste**

---



Captain Jeff DeVere  
Government and Media Relations  
(360) 753-5299 – office  
(360) 753-5469 – fax  
<http://www.wsp.wa.gov>

**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

**Date: April 13, 2006**  
**Contact: Trooper Mike Kesler**  
**(360) 449-7960 Office**  
**(360) 906-2405 Pager**  
**[mike.kesler@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:mike.kesler@wsp.wa.gov)**

## School Zone Speeder Leads to a Drug Arrest

On April 13, 2006 at approximately 3:50 p.m., Trooper Greg Riddell was watching for speeding cars in the school zone at York Elementary School located at 9300 NE 152<sup>nd</sup> Avenue in Vancouver. Riddell observed a 1971 Chevrolet Impala visibly traveling faster than the posted 20mph speed limit as it entered the school zone on northbound NE 152<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. Trooper Riddell's radar confirmed his observation with a reading of 31 MPH.

Riddell stopped the Chevrolet as it turned right onto NE 94<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Riddell contacted the driver identified as Andre A. Blanco, a 25 year old resident of Vancouver. Riddell smelled an odor of marijuana coming from inside the car. Blanco's driver's check showed his status was suspended in the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree for unpaid tickets.

Riddell placed Blanco under arrest for driving while license suspended in the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree. Riddell found \$1,685 in paper currency located in Blanco's front pant pocket. Riddell searched the Chevrolet locating three plastic baggies containing a green leafy substance, which tested positive for marijuana, along with a scale under the driver's front seat. Riddell located another plastic baggie containing a mushroom on the dash board. Riddell located a second scale in a purple back pack,

Trooper Rob Gardiner and his drug dog "Molly" arrived and conducted a search of the Chevrolet, not finding any additional drugs. Molly showed a positive response for the odor of drugs after she sniffed the money.

Blanco gave consent for Riddell to search the Chevrolet's trunk. Riddell found four empty magazines for a semi automatic rifle and one .45 caliber magazine loaded with six hollow point bullets.

The Chevrolet and money was seized based on the belief it was used in drug trafficking.

Blanco was booked into the Clark County Jail for Possession of Marijuana with

Intent to Deliver, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, and Driving While License  
Suspended in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree. Blanco was issued a ticket for the speeding in the School  
Zone.

# # #